









Working during a pn2 summit in July 2015.

History

- 2005: National State Leaders Summit recognizes there are challenges in Deaf education
- 35 state teams with representation from state agencies, schools, programs and parents

History

State teams committed to the goals of the National Agenda for Deaf Education in concert with No Child Left Behind and Office of Special Education Programs accountability expectations

NC Task Force met in 2006

Members represented:

- Institutions for Higher Education
- State Education Agency
- Local Education Agencies
- Teachers (mainstream and program schools)
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Parents

NC Task Force met in 2006

Members, continued:

- Early intervention
- Audiology
- Mental health
- AG Bell
- NC Association of the Deaf
- BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

A bump in the road

The stakeholders met for 2 years and worked on writing goals for the National Agenda on Deaf Education specific to North Carolina's needs.

In 2008, the task force took a break from the work for 2 years.

Challenges overcome

The stakeholders reconvened in 2010.
The team has worked consistently,
and has nearly completed the goals.

Change in direction

In 2012, the National Agenda Summit
presented its new mission:

To enhance the capacity in each
state to provide evidence-based
educational programming
for deaf and hard of hearing
children and youth
in a seamless continuum of programs
and services that prepare them
for further education, employment and
independent living.

Building State Capacity

Pepnet 2 (pn2) hosts annual meetings with all 50 states to help states increase the number and proportion of students who continue past high school and complete post-secondary programs or become employed.

At the conclusion of the Summit Series, each state team will report/demonstrate one clearly identified (tangible) change practice that occurred within their state, institution, or stakeholder group as a result of participating.

In addition, Pepnet 2 will publish a document that shares the experiences and accomplishments of the participating state teams.

Series highlights

Building Capacity launch
January 2013
Two meetings:
25 state teams at each

Pepnet 2 invited states to attend the first meeting in January 2013. State teams consist of 5 members, representing:

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- State Education Agencies
- Local Education Agencies
- Schools for the Deaf
- Parents

Series highlights

2014 and 2015
50 states convene to discuss
and devise plans
to improve outcomes

Pn2 provides regular opportunities for learning and support for the development and implementation of state plans throughout the year.

NC team meets regularly

The team members have been meeting consistently and regularly for 3 years.
We have moved beyond the issues that typically keep teams stagnant
We are not focused on language or modality.

North Carolina's goal

The team chose to work on student-focused planning.

North Carolina's goal

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing, when given the tools and resources, will successfully apply knowledge gained to the best of their ability in any given situation in each of the four transition areas: daily living, instruction, community involvement, and employment.

We determined students need to develop a foundation of self-advocacy and knowledge of available resources to improve their ability to access communication and be successful.

The project

We would create training materials to teach LEA administrators, teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, parents, and students the skills necessary to understand advocacy in terms of access.

Why?

Many students in North Carolina do not have access to a community of deaf and hard of hearing adults. Parents lack the knowledge of what skills their children need to develop, and the products and services available.

Why?

Self-identity and self-advocacy for our students is often not addressed in school.

The team has developed a Transition Guide and a training guide, based on the "Informal Inventory of Independence and Self-Advocacy Skills for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students" (Clark & Scheele, 2005)

What will training entail?

Teachers will receive training and support in resources available to students, and the skills students need.

Parents will receive training and support to understand why students need these skills.

What will training entail?

Students will receive information about:

- Identity and self-esteem
- Peer interactions
- Independent living
- Accommodations
- Communication
- Disclosure

NC recognized for work

In January 2015, pn2 chose 5 states to participate in their Exemplar Program.

As an Exemplar State, the team has received additional support to finalize and implement our pilot.

We have had access to additional support from pn2 professionals and will collect data on our pilot with the help of Vital Research.

LEA administrators, teachers, parents and students will participate in pre- and post-training surveys.

Next steps

DPI will identify and invite 4 or 5 LEAs that represent the state's diversity to participate in the pilot.

Next steps

Training for LEAs and teachers is expected to start in January 2016.

Student and parent training will take place from February to April 2016.

Data collected, pilot completed May 2016.

Goals expanded

Our participation in the pn2 Building State Capacity series motivated the larger NC Agenda Task Force to add post-secondary transition to our state goals. These goals detail best practices.

Questions?


